

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, October 19, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, October 19, 1838.

My Dear General, I received a few days since your last letter announcing to me the death of Colo. Earl. I sincerely sympathize with your feelings upon his loss. He was an affectionate hearted man and idolized you almost, in his enthusiastic attachment, which grew not more from personal predilection, than from gratitude and admiration for your services to the Country. I felt a sincere friendship for him, indeed a sort of fraternal affection; for during seven years both of us were in the habit of looking to you as a common Patron. Poor Earl, in his facetious way, frequently spoke of our relationship, saying that he, was the *King's Painter* and I the *King's Printer*.

I promised Mr. Kendall to forward some notes to you from the State Department as to the negotiations of Clay and Adams to recover Texas from Mexico, but as you have already replied to Mr. Howards letter it is no longer necessary. As chairman of the Committee of foreign Relations, Howard will necessarily explore all the correspondence and will find ample evidence to convict Adams of the grossest inconsistency. His arguments now against the acquisition will be confronted by his acts as President, and what in his speech during the last year of your presidency, he declared to have been his sentiments while secretary of state. In the course of his efforts to prove that you had sanctioned his Treaty with Don Onis,¹ he declared on the floor of the House, that he was opposed to the cession of Texas to Spain, but that he was overruled by Mr. Monroe and his counsellors, of whom he would have the public believe you were one especially consulted. His subsequent

Library of Congress

solicitude to recover the lost Territory when President would seem to give countenance to this, but now all his arguments go to shew that he is hostile to the re-annexation of Texas on the ground that it would add to the slave holding section of the union, an objection which shews that his real motives of conduct throughout, are as old in origin, as the date of the Louisiana admission, when the whole federal party opposed it, on the ground that the admission of this southern Territory, was calculated to add to the political weight of the southern portion of the Union. This is now the true cause of the northern

1 Don Luis de Onis, Spanish minister to the United States 1809–1819.

outcry against the admission of Texas. Politicians look to the political balance in our confederacy and adjust their weight accordingly. I send you Mr. Adams' last letter on this subject, perhaps you may think it worth reading and it may suggest some additional remark to Mr. Howard. . . .